Smuggling of goods into Bangladesh

3204. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the money value of the goods which are smuggled into Bangladesh from India through porous border during one year;

(b) what is the estimated loss of revenue from India side; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up open markets at the border through which goods can be sold legally and revenue can be earned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Since goods like cattle, pharmaceutical drugs, coal, fresh fruits etc. are smuggled into Bangladesh by individual carriers in small quantities, no realistic assessment of the money value of the goods smuggled into Bangladesh has been made. However, during the last year, goods valued at Rs. 16.43 crores were seized which were meant for smuggling into Bangladesh.

(b) As these goods do not attract any export duty, there is no revenue loss on account of their being smuggled.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to set up Border Haats along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Consultations with the Bangladesh Government are being made in this regard by the Ministry concerned.

Upgradation of the post of Income Tax and Central Excise Inspectors

3205. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply of Unstarred Question 5350 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th May, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to upgrade the posts of Inspectors of Income Tax and Central Excise as Group 'B' Gazetted posts in view of their Pay Scale of Rs. 6500-10500;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?